

REMARKS

This response is to the Office Letter mailed in the above-referenced case on December 21, 2000. Claims 1-17 are presented for examination. In the Office Letter the Examiner objects to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) stating that the drawings fail to show a bridge for two connection-oriented networks as described in claim 17. Claims 1-17 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-23 of copending Application No. 09/036,358. Claims 1-17 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-23 of copending Application No. 09/041,370. Claims 1-4, 7-10 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Williams et al., hereinafter Williams. Claims 3-4 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams in view of Ito et al., hereinafter Ito. Claims 5-6 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams in view of Iwami et al., hereinafter Iwami.

Applicant has carefully studied the rejection, the Examiner's remarks, and the references provided by the Examiner. In response, applicant herein amends the specification to positively state that the bridge unit 87 (Fig. 4) is the same bridge unit accomplishing the recited functions of claim 17, therefore overcoming the objection to the drawings. Applicant herein provides two separate terminal disclaimers in order to overcome the obviousness-type double patenting rejections. Applicant herein amends the independent claims to more particularly point out that the conversion circuitry in the single bridge unit enables a live call between two people

wherein one person is on a COST network, and the other is on the DNT network.

Regarding claim 1, the argument was presented in the last amendment provided by the applicant stating that Williams did not teach a system wherein two people engaged in live conversation wherein one is on the COST or PSTN network, and the other is on the Internet or DNT network. The Examiner responded to the argument in the present Office Action stating that the claims do not have any limitation regarding two people engaged in a live conversation where one is on a PSTN and one is on the Internet. Applicant herein amends the claim to positively recite that the dynamic conversion of data enables two people to engage in a live call even though one person is on a data network and the other is on a COST network. Therefore, applicant believes claim 1 as amended is patentable over the art of Williams. Claims 2-6 are patentable on their own merits, or at least as depended from a patentable claim.

Applicant herein amends claim 7 to include similar limitations as amended in claim 1. Claim 7 now recites dynamically converting data between the two associated calls, thereby providing a continuing and dynamic telephony connection, enabling live conversation between a user on a COST telephone connected to the COST network and a user on a DNT terminal connected to the DNT network. Applicant claims an apparatus and method enabling dynamic telephony calls to take place between participants (a caller and a recipient) wherein one of the participants of the call is on a data network and one of the participants of the call is on a COST network. In applicant's invention the caller and the destination are on two separate networks. Not so in the art of Williams. Williams teaches placing an analog voice call with a conventional telephone, converting the call to DNT, traveling the Internet to another server, converting the call back to analog voice and delivering the call to the destination telephone.

Applicant believes claim 7, as amended, is patentable over the art of Williams as argued above on behalf of claim 1. Claims 8-12 are patentable on their own merits, or at least as depended from a patentable claim.

Independent claim 13 is also herein amended to positively recite that the dynamic conversion of data enables two people to engage in live conversation even though one person is on a data network and the other is on a COST network. Williams teaches a method for placing a COST call, transferring the call over a packet network, placing the call to another COST network. There is no live connection between two users on separate networks in the art of Williams as claimed in applicant's invention. Applicant believes claim 13, as amended, is also patentable over the art of Williams. Claims 14-17 are patentable on their own merits, or at least as depended from a patentable claim.

As all of the claims are patentable to the Applicant over the art of Williams, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and that the case be passed quickly to issue.

If there are any extensions of time required beyond any extension specifically petitioned and paid with this response, such extensions are hereby requested. If there are any fees due beyond any fees paid by check with this response, authorization is given to deduct such fees from deposit account 50-0534.

Marked-Up Specification and Claims

Page 23,paragraph, substitute the following paragraph therefor:

--In yet another aspect of the invention, bridges such as, or similar to bridge 87 may be provided between any two protocol-incompatible networks. The interface and functionality described is not necessarily limited to connection-oriented networks interfacing with non-connection-oriented networks. Two DNT networks of dissimilar data protocol could be similarly linked, and two connection-oriented networks having incompatible call protocol could also be similarly linked, for example.--

1. (Thrice Amended) A computerized telephony bridge unit, comprising:

a trunk-line port and associated circuitry for receiving and placing Connection Oriented/Switched Telephony (COST) telephone calls on a COST network;

a data network port and associated circuitry for receiving and placing Data Network Telephony (DNT) calls on a data network; and
conversion circuitry for converting data representing calls dynamically between DNT and COST telephone calls;

wherein control routines functioning as part of the bridge unit receive a first call from one of the COST and DNT networks, place a call associated with the received call on the network other than the network on which the call is received, and dynamically convert data between the associated calls, and the dynamic conversion of data enables two people to engage in a live conversation even though one person is on a data network and the other is on a COST network.

7. (Once Amended) A method for converting telephony calls between Connection Oriented/Switched Telephony (COST) calls and Data Network Telephony (DNT) calls, comprising steps of:

(a) connecting a COST trunk line to a trunk-line port and associated circuitry for receiving and placing Dedicated Connection Telephony (COST) telephone calls on a COST network, the trunk line port and associated circuitry in a computerized telephony bridge unit;

(b) connecting a data network line to a data network port and associated circuitry for receiving and placing Data Network Telephony (DNT) calls on a data network, the data network port and associated circuitry also in the computerized telephony bridge unit;

(c) receiving a first call from one of the COST network and the data network;

(d) placing a second call associated with the first call on the network other than the network on which the first call is received; and

(e) dynamically converting data between the two associated calls, thereby [proving] providing a continuing and dynamic telephony connection, enabling live conversation between a user on a COST telephone connected to the COST network and a user on a DNT terminal connected to the DNT network.

13. (Once Amended) A computerized telephony bridge unit, comprising:

a first port and associated circuitry for receiving and placing calls on a first network, including circuitry for generating data according to a protocol compatible with the first network;

a second port and associated circuitry for receiving and placing calls on a second network, including circuitry for generating data according to a protocol compatible with the second network; and

conversion circuitry for converting data dynamically between the

first network protocol and the second network protocol;

wherein control routines functioning as part of the bridge unit receive a first call from either the first or the second network, place a call associated with the received call on the network other than the network on which the call is received, and dynamically convert data between the associated calls, and the dynamic conversion of data enables two people to engage in a live conversation even though one person is on a data network and the other is on a COST network.

Respectfully,
Dan Kikinis et al.

by

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Donald R. Boys', written over a horizontal line.

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